



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

William E. McLaughlin

10/015,798 filed 11/02/01 [DIVISION of 09/235,618 of 01/21.99]

ART Group 3713, Asst. Ex. A. Rade, phone 703-308-7138

Class 473/353.000

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November 11, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

Box Amendment without fee

Alert that parent McLaughlin 6,482,108 issues Nov. 19, 2002

Please amend the application by making the following insertion prior to
"BACKGROUND"

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- - - CROSS-REFERENCE

- This is a compulsory division of Ser.No. 09,235,618, filed 01/21/99, now
6,842,108 of 11/19/92. = = =

The application as filed included adequate reference to its divisional
status, but it now needs updating to identify the patent number. As an aid to
the clerks, a substitute page 1 is provided so that such updating can be by
page substitution.

The signature page is the last page.



Patent application of William L. McLaughlin
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Title of the Invention: Laser Device for Searching for Lost Item
Schedule regarding Federally sponsored research: Inapplicable
Reference to Microfiche: Appendix: Inapplicable

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CROSS-REFERENCE TO PARENT APPLICATION

This is a compulsory division of Ser.No. 09/235,618, filed 01/21/99 now U.S. Patent 6,648,108 of 11/19/02.

BACKGROUND - Field of Invention

In some athletic games, such as golf, a playing device such as a golf ball, is temporarily lost, so that one or more players must devote time to searching. Sometimes a golfball is not found, thus adding to the expense of the sport. Golf balls are not extremely expensive. Few golfers care to spend large amounts of money for a retrieval system involving golf balls costing significantly more than conventional golf balls. The method and apparatus are also useful for searching For and retrieving creatures, experimentally launched airplanes, or other items which might temporarily be lost.

PRIOR ART

Horchler, 3,782,730 uses a magnetically actuated switch to turn on or off a Radio oscillator at the core of the golf ball, whose radio signal can be monitored by the player whenever the ball is temporarily lost.

Engimeier 5,423,549 employs a rechargeable battery and a system for electromagnetically transmitting energy to the battery charger of a Horchler type of golf ball.

Little 5,626,531 employs a capacitance system which tags such ball whenever activated by the radiation from a Horchler type of target-seeking monitor.

Kroll et al 5.662,534 also uses a monitor sending out a series of pulses of radio beams, and analyzing the reflected radio waves. In Kroll et al, the golf ball features a generic reflector of such radio beams.

Valentino 5,112,622 employs a golf ball having a metal center and the combination of a